GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:628
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
ILLEGAL MIGRATION FROM BANGLADESH
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh discussed illegal migration during the meeting held in April, 2000;

(b) if so. the details of other issues that came for discussion during the meeting;

(c) the outcome of the discussions; and

(d) the steps being taken to check the illegal migration from Bangladesh to India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) & (c) The fourth India - Bangladesh Home Secretary level talks took place in New Delhi in April 2000. The discussions covered various issues related to border management including, inter alia, illegal cross border movement, security-related issues, trans-border crimes including smuggling of arms & explosives and trafficking in women and children, boundary matters and visa arrangements, etc. Both sides reiterated their resolve to extend the fullest co-operation to each other to prevent activities prejudicial to mutual interests.

(d) The Government of India has been regularly taking up the issue of illegal migrants with the Government of Bangladesh at political and diplomatic levels. Both sides have agreed to adhere to procedures agreed upon earlier in this regard. To prevent illegal border crossing, Government of India has also undertaken a series of steps internally to strengthen security at the border. These include raising of additional battalions of the Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on land and the riverine border, and construction of border roads and fencing.